



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

SOUTH HERTS (No. 1) COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT


(Excluding Tring Urban District)

MALCOLM GROSS

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.(Eng.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MALCOLM GROSS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Eng.), D.P.H.
(also Divisional Medical Officer, Dacorum Division, Hertfordshire C.C.)

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:—

ALAN C. HORNE, D.P.A., M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
(Meat and Other Foods, Smoke, and Sanitary Science Certificates—R.S.I.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:—

E. BIRCH, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.
(Meat and Other Foods, and Smoke Certificates—R.S.I.)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:—

K. A. CHESTER, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.
(Meat and Other Foods, and Sanitary Science Certificates—R.S.I.)
D. P. J. BYRNE, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.I.)

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:—

R. H. T. CHAPPELL, B.Sc., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.I.)

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:—

G. E. BROGAN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.I.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:—

B. DAY, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED.

Sanitary Inspector:—

C. LAIDMAN, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B., F.A.L.P.A.
(also Surveyor and Housing Manager to the District Council)

URBAN DISTRICT OF TRING.

Sanitary Inspector:—

JAMES F. NORRIS, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
M.S.I.A.
(also Surveyor to the District Council)

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P R E F A C E

There is very little change in the vital statistics for 1955 as compared with those for 1954. The birth-rate, the death-rate and the infantile mortality-rate all compare very favourably with the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

Apart from Measles and Whooping Cough, very little infectious disease was notified. An outbreak of Measles in Berkhamsted from September to October resulted in the notification of 366 cases. One hundred and fifty-nine cases were notified in the Hemel Hempstead Rural District, the majority of these from Bovingdon and Flamstead; 20 cases were removed to isolation hospital. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough does not appear to have especially accompanied the Measles outbreaks; 59 cases were notified in the Borough and 37 in Berkhamsted.

Twenty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and only 2 removed to isolation hospital.

Of the 10 cases of Poliomyelitis 6 were paralytic and 4 non-paralytic; of the former, 3 were severe but by the end of the year were making good progress towards recovery. A number of doubtful cases which were removed to isolation hospital were not confirmed; the early removal of such cases to isolation hospital may not only be desirable from the patient's point of view but, also, as a possible means of preventing spread of infection.

This year the completion of the Survey of sub-standard dwellings necessitated by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, resulted in a total of 691 houses being classified as unfit houses; it is proposed to take action in the case of 450 of these houses during the next five years.

A growing problem in this District is the setting up of slaughter-houses for slaughtering on a large scale and for the purpose of supplying fresh meat to large populations right away from the District. It is the responsibility of the small Local Authority in whose area such a slaughter-house is sited to arrange for a competent examination of all meat by a properly qualified meat inspector. This carries with it a heavy financial burden which such an Authority can scarcely welcome with enthusiasm, especially when the advantage is to be reaped entirely outside its District. Furthermore, any unwillingness on the part of the slaughter-house owner to slaughter within times suitable to the meat inspector must render the inspector's work extremely onerous.

I would like to express my thanks for the help I have received from my office staff and, in particular, for the faithful service I have received for so many years from my Chief Clerk, Mr. Douglas Harling.

The Annual Report from Tring Urban District is not included in this booklet because of the Tring Urban District Council's request for Duplication of their report in order to cut down expense.

MALCOLM GROSS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
"Churchill", Park Road,
Hemel Hempstead.

August, 1956.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

STATISTICS

The Borough comprises	...	...	...	...	7,193 acres
Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population) 1955	...	...	...	...	36,580
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	10,966
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£241,548
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£982

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	732	378	354	} BIRTH - RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population . 20.9
	{ Illegitimate	35	16	17	
STILL-BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	17	10	7	} STILLBIRTH - RATE per 1,000 (live and still) births 25.5
	{ Illegitimate	3	1	2	
DEATHS	... ..	291	154	137	DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population . 7.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil

Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	15.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	16.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	Nil

Actual number of deaths under one year:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total	...	...	...	—	12

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 53

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

Principal Causes of Death

Of the 291 deaths, 145 were attributable to Heart or Circulatory Disease. There were 2 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 35 from other respiratory diseases (excluding cancer). There were 53 deaths from Cancer, including 7 of Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus. No deaths were recorded as from Influenza and there were no deaths from Poliomyelitis. There was no death from motor vehicle accidents.

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year of Age

Of the 12 deaths, 8 occurred in infants under 4 weeks of age. Three of these were prematurely born and the other 5 had congenital defects. Of the 4 older infants, one died from Broncho pneumonia, one from Epiglottitis, one from Pneumonitis and one from Congenital Pyloric Stenosis.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1955

Visits and Inspections

COMPLAINTS:

Number of complaints investigated	...	424
-----------------------------------	-----	-----

GENERAL:

Houses—Public Health Acts	...	...	165
Housing Acts	...	...	98
Housing Act Survey	...	...	369
Infectious diseases	...	...	137
Overcrowding	...	...	228
Council house applicants	...	...	256
Water supplies	...	...	258
Drainage and cesspools	...	...	482
Common lodging houses	...	...	10
Movable dwellings	...	...	144
Canal boats	...	...	—
Factories, workplaces and outworkers' premises	...	...	137
Building sites	...	...	101
Schools	...	...	3
Theatres, cinemas and public halls	...	...	9
Swimming pool	...	...	10

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

Shops Act	...	...	...	...	171
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	407
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	11
Fireguards Act	...	...	...	...	17
Pests Act—rats and mice	...	...	...	...	1657
Dirty and verminous premises	...	...	...	...	62
Flies and insects	...	...	...	...	76
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke observations and boiler house visits	...	...	...	...	22
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	...	6
Revisits to dwellings under notice	...	...	...	...	1025
Interviews	...	...	...	...	1279
Other visits	...	...	...	...	863

FOOD PREMISES:

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	84
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	77
Food preparing rooms	...	...	...	...	18
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	39
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	35
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	25
Restaurants, dining rooms and kitchens	...	...	...	...	99
Factory, building site and mobile canteens	...	...	...	...	47
Public market and foodstalls	...	...	...	...	116
Dairies and milk shops	...	...	...	...	72
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	46
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	154
Food inspection visits	...	...	...	...	112
Food and Drugs sampling	...	...	...	...	15

SAMPLES TAKEN:

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	79
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water	...	...	...	...	...	233
Swimming pool	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food and Drugs Act—Formal	...	...	...	...	...	9
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	9

Notices Served and Complied With

	Outstanding 31.12.54	Served 1955	Completed 1955	Outstanding 31.12.55
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS				
Informal	49	142	139	52

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

Formal	4	3	6	1
HOUSING ACT				
Informal (Repairs) ...	9	9	11	7
Formal:				
(Repairs)	Nil	2	Nil	2
(Demolition Orders)	27	8	16	19
(Closing Orders) ...	1	3	3	1
(Undertakings) ...	6	Nil	5	1
SHOPS ACT				
Informal	2	22	10	14
FACTORIES ACT				
Informal	7	21	18	10
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT				
Informal	4	30	17	17
PETROLEUM ACTS				
Informal	4	24	9	19
PET ANIMALS ACT ...	1	1	2	Nil
FIRE GUARDS ACT ...	Nil	1	1	Nil
	<hr/> 114	<hr/> 266	<hr/> 237	<hr/> 143

Nuisances Abated: Defects and Contraventions Remedied

Houses	790
Movable dwellings	29
Common lodging houses	4
Food premises	64
Shops (welfare)	6
Licensed premises	7

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Houses disinfected after infectious disease	1
Houses treated for bed-bugs:	
Council houses	5
Other houses	9
Houses for other vermin	21
Houses for ants and wasps	10
Loads of bedding steam-treated	2

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Production and Distribution

All milk sold retail in the Borough is received direct from the farms or from pasteurising depots in other areas; all the milk arrives bottled. The six registered dairies are, in effect, only stores.

MILK SAMPLING

	Produced in Borough		Produced outside Borough	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
DESIGNATED MILK—				
Pasteurised	Nil	Nil	43	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) ...	13	5	15	3

ICE CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough. Sixteen bacteriological examinations of ice cream sold in the Borough produced the following results:—

Number of Samples	... ..	16
Satisfactory (Grades I and II)	... ..	13
Unsatisfactory (Grades III and IV)	... ..	3

Meat and Other Foods

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The Chief Sanitary Inspector states: “Two slaughterhouses are licensed and in use. One has only been used occasionally for the slaughter of one or two calves; the other is used weekly for the slaughtering of sheep, pigs and calves for the occupier’s own use. Slaughtering normally takes place in the evening and the carcasses and offal are left until the inspector has seen them the following morning. No difficulties over inspection have arisen.”

The following table shows the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the Borough during 1955:—

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses *
Number killed (if known)	—	—	66	353	187	—
Number inspected	—	—	66	353	187	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	17	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	4.8	2.1	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.6	—
CYSTICERCOSIS*:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Records not available.

Foodstuffs Found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

Fresh Meat	404 lbs.	Chocolate Bars ...	52
Ham	98 lbs.	Tins or Packets ...	1,009
Offal	377 lbs.	Other goods ...	66 lbs.

Clean Food Campaign

In connection with the increased interest in food cleanliness and the stress on the importance of the subject, the following information is provided:—

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

(a) NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES AT 31.12.55 WAS:

Butchers	29
Fishmongers:	
Wet and dried fish only	2
Wet, dried and fried fish	11
Grocers	84
Greengrocers	48
Grocers and greengrocers (mixed trade)	25
Flour confectionery (bread and cakes)	21
Sugar confectionery (sweets)	58
Licensed premises (not including Off Licences)	55
Licensed premises serving main meals	16
Cafes	30

(b) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND THE NUMBER OF DAIRIES REGISTERED UNDER THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949:

Sausage making, etc.	31
Sale of ice cream	73
Dairies (all depots for bottled milk received from outside the Borough)	6

(c) NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES:

Ice cream premises	46
Dairies	72

(d) No new educational activity was commenced during the year.

(e) METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD:

The major quantity is disposed of, under supervision, on the Corporation's controlled tip; a small amount of butchers' meat and tinned foods are incinerated.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred during the year.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	140	114	14	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by by the Local Authority	19	8	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	37	101	8	—
TOTAL	196	223	22	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :					
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .	18	12	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	16	—	—	—

3. OUTWORK:

Making, etc., of wearing apparel	37
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	120
Total	157

HOUSING

By the end of 1955 the number of housing applicants was found to have dropped by 16 during the year (809 to 793) and, whereas 226 houses (a record number) had been erected by the Corporation in 1954, 102 were erected in 1955—this last figure including 6 one-room bungalows for old people.

The Housing Manager remarks: “This has been a less spectacular year than the last one, with just over a hundred houses completed. By re-letting the few houses which have become vacant and transferring existing tenants where desirable, the best possible use has been made of the accommodation available and about 170 families have been given accommodation more suited to their needs. Included in this number are 15 families moved from requisitioned properties, of which 12 have been released this year, and 9 families housed from properties no longer fit for human habitation.

There is little reduction in the numbers on the waiting list, which remains at nearly 800.”

The Survey necessitated by the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, revealed that 103 houses in the Borough were unfit for habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense. At an earlier post-war Survey, before the passing of the 1954 Act, the number of such houses was roughly estimated at about 600. Several factors combined to reduce this earlier figure; the minimum standard of fitness was apparently, in certain details, reduced by the 1954 Act, whereas it had been anticipated that it would be raised above the former standard; a number of tenants of sub-standard houses bought their houses and made them fit at an expense rather more than had been regarded as “reasonable”; a number of landlords took advantage of their right to sell their properties to the Development Corporation who have also made some of them fit at rather more than “reasonable” expense; a number of houses were demolished between the preliminary survey and the final one in 1955.

Under the scheme submitted to the Ministry, all the remaining 103 unfit houses are due for demolition during the next 5 years.

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

During the year 1955, the following houses were :—

(a) Commenced only :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Prefabricated .	56	Wates three-bedroom, non-parlour.	—
Permanent Brick	43	20 three-bed., 16 two-bed., 2 one-bed., and 5 Old People's Bungalows.	31

(b) Completed :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Prefabricated .	38	Wates three-bedroom.	—
Permanent Brick	64	43 three-bed., 15 two-bed., and 6 Old People's Bungalows.	41

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.55 was as follows :—

(a) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.55 :

Site	Number of houses	Type
Crabtree Lane	54	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom
Crabtree Lane	31	Temporary Prefabricated—2 bedroom
Wood Crescent	19	Temporary Prefabricated—2 bedroom
Adeyfield	102	Permanent Prefabricated—3-bedroom
Adeyfield	174	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom houses, 1 and 2-bedroom flats and Old People's Bungalows
Belswains Estate . . .	170	Permanent Brick—2, 3 and 4-bedroom
Beechfield Estate . . .	188	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom houses and bungalows
Oakdene Road	6	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Fairway	40	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom
Stonelea Road	14	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Vauxhall Road	14	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Seaton Road	1	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Deaconsfield Road . . .	1	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Oliver Road	2	Permanent Brick—2-bedroom
Warners End	58	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

(b) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) commenced, but not completed at 31.12.55 :

Site	No. of Houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Highfield Scheme 1 ...	56	Wates three-bedroom	56	38
Highfield Scheme 2 ...	27	12 three-bedroom 13 two-bedroom 2 one-bedroom	27	—
Belswains Scheme 6...	16	8 three-bedroom 3 two-bedroom 5 Old People's Bungalows.	16	—

(c) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected since 1.1.55, i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.55 :

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Highfield Scheme 3 ...	50	33 three-bedroom, 13 two-bedroom and 4 one-bedroom
Highfield Scheme 4 ...	76	40 three-bedroom, 22 two-bedroom, 10 one-bedroom and 4 Old People's Bungalows
Beechfield Scheme 7 .	10	10 Old Persons' Bungalows
Highfield Scheme 5 ...	26	26 three-bedroom
Highfield Scheme 6 ...	83	36 three-bedroom, 17 two-bedroom, 18 one-bedroom and 12 Old People's Bungalows

Number of houses and huts requisitioned at end of 1955 :

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Huts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Number of applicants on waiting list for Council houses at end of February, 1956 (after annual review) 793

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

I am indebted to the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation for the following information regarding the progress of the New Town:—

“ 1. **Housing**

During 1955, 868 dwellings were completed comprising:

62 one-bedroom
238 two-bedroom
504 three-bedroom
64 four-bedroom

The total number of dwellings completed at 31st December, 1955: 4,876.

The 868 dwellings completed during the year were distributed as follows:

Adeyfield ...	...	...	...	...	50
Bennetts End	...	...	...	...	246
Chaulden ...	...	...	...	...	224
Warners End	...	...	...	...	329
Town Centre	...	...	...	...	19

The number of dwellings under construction at the end of 1955 was:

Adeyfield ...	...	...	...	...	309
Bennetts End	...	...	...	...	192
Chaulden ...	...	...	...	...	378
Warners End	...	...	...	...	1,041
Town Centre	...	...	...	...	40
Total ...					<hr/> 1,960 <hr/>

Eight hundred and eighty houses were newly occupied during the year, thus bringing the number of newcomers to the town as a result of the Corporation's development to 16,200.

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

2. **Industry :** At the end of the year 26 new factories, with a total floor space of 890,000 sq. ft. were in operation, employing 4,350 workers in all.
3. **Shops :** In the Town Centre, 45 new shops were completed and 53 were under construction at 31st December. F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd.'s new store was within a few days of occupation, the Hemel Hempstead Co-operative Society's new store and shops for J. Sainsbury Ltd. and Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd. were in the later stages of construction. The open market moved to its new and enlarged site during the year. At the same time 71 shops had been opened in neighbourhood centres and 29 similar shops were under construction.
4. **Schools :** Five Primary School Departments, one Secondary Modern School and a new Grammar School were completed by the Hertfordshire County Council during 1955.

The estimated number of children of school age (5-15 years) in Development Corporation houses at the end of the year was 2,870.

5. **General :** The bulk of the housing development planned for Adeyfield and Bennetts End neighbourhood units was completed or under construction by the end of the year under review. Chaulden and Warners End were growing apace, and the earlier stages of development had started in Gadebridge. The Borough Council completed the first houses in its part of the development of Highfield during the year, and so all the main new neighbourhoods were in varying stages of development.

The first stage of Town Centre construction was nearing completion, one further step towards the all-round development of the new town."

B O R O U G H O F H E M E L H E M P S T E A D

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the following data :

“During the year sewers were laid by the Council for the development of the Highfield and Belswains 6 schemes as follows :

Foul Sewers				
	6"	9"	12"	15"
(yards)	296	681		
Surface Water				
Sewers (yards)	424	369	835	380

and by the Development Corporation as follows :

	6"	9"	12"	15"	18"	21"
Foul Sewers						
(yards)	887	5,258				
Surface Water						
Sewers (yards)	1,688	3,014	939	1,027	601	149

and 1,278 yards of the River Bulbourne were widened and deepened to form a surface water storage pound.”

The Chief Sanitary Inspector states: “It is disappointing to record that the Wood Lane End dwellings are still served by cess-pools. Every householder was interviewed and almost all agreed to connect to a sewer if one was provided. Unfortunately the lowest price quoted when tenders were received was unacceptable. It is hoped that a joint advertisement for this and similar work at Pancake Lane will produce a reasonable tender and that the work can be completed during 1956.

Building site inspections were fewer than in the previous two years and sanitary conditions generally were found to be reasonable.”

WATER SUPPLIES

The greater part of the Borough is supplied by mains water. A small area at Felden is connected to the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's water supply and the remainder of the town is supplied from the Council's boreholes—two at Piccotts End and two at the Waterworks in Marlowes.

The average daily consumption of water during the year was 1.98 million gallons, a considerable decrease over the amount consumed the previous year, and due to waste detection and remedy. Eleven and a half further miles of distribution mains were laid in addition to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 24 in. diameter and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of 9 in. diameter mains.

The Borough Engineer states: "During the year the construction of Boxted Reservoir was begun and the structure is one-third complete. All water pumped to supply, passes through Adeyfield Reservoir where it is retained in contact with the chlorine residual of 0.2 P.P.M. for a minimum period of 12 hours.

Works in hand include the completion of Boxted Reservoir, laying distribution mains to serve the New Town development and the installation of a submersible pump in the 18 in. borehole at Marlowes."

The Chief Sanitary Inspector states:—

"Town Supply : A constant check was kept upon the purity of supplies and 195 samples were submitted for examination.

Raw water is pumped from the boreholes and samples are obtained before any treatment is undertaken. The water is then chlorinated and pumped to the Adeyfield Booster Station, where it is sampled before distribution through the mains. Further samples are taken from hydrants and service taps throughout the areas of supply—particularly at the extremities of service mains—and in each new area as premises are occupied.

As the table below shows, 7 raw samples and 3 chlorinated samples were unsatisfactory. Works of same magnitude carried out on the bores probably accounted for the former; the latter failures were on new supplies and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Private Supplies : Sixteen unsatisfactory samples were found in a total of 42 taken. Thirteen of these unsatisfactory samples derived from three premises. Of these, one has since been reported to the Health Committee with a view to demolition, at one the supply has been improved, and at the third negotiations are proceeding for a main supply.”

Water Samples taken during the Year 1955

Description of Samples	No. of Samples					
	BACTERIOLOGICAL			CHEMICAL		
	Taken	Satis.	Unsatis.	Taken	Satis.	Unsatis.
Main Supply:						
Raw Water—						
Marlowes ...	1	1	—	—	—	—
Piccotts End	69	62	7	6	6	—
Chlorinated ..	115	112	3	—	—	—
Private Supplies	42	26	16	—	—	—
Swimming Pool	20	20	—	—	—	—

Main Water ... Total Hardness: 24 to 30 parts per 100,000;
18.9 grains per gallon approx.

The following table gives particulars of dwellings and population supplied from public water mains and from wells:—

Total Number in Borough	Dwellings 11,034*	Persons 39,000†
Number supplied from main :		
1. Direct	10,993	38,876
2. To outside standpipes	12	34
	11,005	38,910
Number supplied by wells	29	90

* Supplied by Borough Treasurer. † Estimate.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives details of Notifiable Diseases during the year 1955:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	49	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	5	5	Nil
(Non-Paralytic)	1	1	Nil
Measles	91	1	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	4	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis:			
Respiratory	18	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	1	—	—
Other	3	—	—

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis (P)	Acute Polio-myelitis (NP)	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	Tuberculosis—Meninges & CNS	Tuberculosis—Other
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 2 years .	—	2	1	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
2 to 3 years .	—	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 to 4 years .	1	4	1	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 to 5 years .	—	1	—	—	26	—	—	—	1	—	—
5 to 10 years .	3	25	1	—	34	—	1	—	—	—	1
10 to 15 years .	1	14	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 to 35 years .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	8	1	1
35 to 45 years .	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—
45 to 65 years .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1
65 years & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Age unknown .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	5	49	5	1	91	1	4	2	18	1	3

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

STATISTICS

The Rural District comprises an area of 20,249 acres and is made up of the parishes of Kings Langley, Flaunden, Bovington, Great Gaddesden, Flamstead and Markyate.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population) 1955	...	...	...	...	12,600
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	4,010
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£77,471
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£301

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>		
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	186	99	87	{ BIRTH - RATE	
	{ Illegitimate	14	6	8	{ per 1,000 of the	
					{ estimated resi-	
					{ dent population .	15.9
STILL-BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	5	3	2	{ STILLBIRTH -	
	{ Illegitimate	—	—	—	{ RATE per 1,000	
					{ (live and still)	
					{ births ...	24.4
DEATHS	...	105	47	58	DEATH-RATE	
					per 1,000 of the	
					estimated resi-	
					dent population .	8.3
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil	

Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	15.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	16.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate	...	...	...	Nil

Actual number of deaths under one year:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total	...	...	...	...	3

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Principal Causes of Death

Of the 105 deaths, 49 were attributable to Heart or Circulatory disease. There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 13 occurred from other respiratory diseases (excluding cancer). Seventeen deaths occurred from Cancer. There were no recorded deaths from Poliomyelitis or Influenza. There were no fatalities from motor vehicle accidents.

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year of Age :

Of the 3 infant deaths, 2 occurred under 4 weeks of age, one being attributed to Prematurity and one to Congenital abnormalities. The third older infant suffered from Broncho-pneumonia and Congenital Heart Disease.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1955

Visits and Inspections made

GENERAL :

Houses—Housing Acts	...	...	...	175
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	19
Water supply	...	...	...	18
Drainage	...	...	...	75
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	98
Factories	...	...	...	21
Refuse collection	...	...	...	99
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	100
Schools	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	31

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Visits and Inspections made

GENERAL (*continued*)

Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	112
Interviews	...	...	...	...	39
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	7
Public houses	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances	...	...	...	...	33

MEAT AND FOODS:

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	102
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	23
Grocers	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	5
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	17

Notices Served and Complied With

		Outstanding 31.12.54	Served 1955	Completed 1955	Outstanding 31.12.55
Formal	...	Nil	8	6	2
Informal	...	57	123	142	38
		—	—	—	—
Total	...	57	131	148	40
		—	—	—	—

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	54
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses with defective windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous structures	...	...	...	...	...	15
Houses with defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	47
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	...	2

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

General dampness	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses treated for bed-bugs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses treated for other vermin	...	...	...	...	...	3
Loads of bedding steam treated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Production and Distribution

REGISTER :

Number of dairies registered (not being dairy farms) ...	2
Number of distributors of milk	14
Number of dealers licensed to sell tuberculin tested milk	7
Number of supplementary pasteurised licences ...	4
Number of supplementary sterilised licences	4

Meat and Other Foods

SLAUGHTERHOUSES :

The Senior Sanitary Inspector states : “ There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Slaughtering is carried on mainly in the parish of Bovingdon, on most days of the week. It is physically impossible to inspect all the meat slaughtered, but a special effort is made to inspect cows, beasts, and pigs.”

This is very unsatisfactory. It is quite clear that the inspection of all meat slaughtered is not only desirable but necessary in the interest of the preservation of the health of the public. The fact that this is not being accomplished does appear to be in part due to incomplete co-operation on the part of the butcher concerned. For further remarks on slaughtering in the District—see Preface.

The following table shows the extent of tuberculosis and other disease found on post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the District during 1955 :—

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses *
Number killed (if known)	3	14	393	217	51	—
Number inspected	2	11	157	116	42	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCU- LOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	2	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	18	—	—	2	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	2	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis...	—	18	—	—	—	—
CYSTICERCOSIS*:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Records not available.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES:

There are 4 bakehouses, 5 fish-frying premises, 19 cafes and restaurants, and 40 public houses in the District.

During the year some improvement has been noted at the Bovington Airport Canteen, which has been for so long unsatisfactory.

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Thirty premises are used in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice cream, preserved food, etc. There is no manufacture of ice cream for sale in the District.

FOODSTUFFS FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION:

- 12 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat, each 6 lbs.
- 1 Tin Corned Beef, 6 lbs.
- 120 lbs. Beef (Decomposition)
- 25 lbs. Beef (Decomposition)
- 2 Tins Luncheon Meat, each 4 lbs.
- 2 Tins Corned Beef, each 6 lbs. *
- 15 lbs. Pigs Kidneys.
- 6 Tins Tomatoes, each 2 lbs. 3 ozs.

Food Poisoning

The only food poisoning outbreak occurred in connection with a school meal provided from a County Council food canteen and transported to School Villages. The infection was mild. Bacteriological investigations were indeterminate but indicated that the origin of the outbreak lay in the meat pudding provided. The number of children and staff affected was 52, most of these attending Flamstead School. Certain unsatisfactory features were noted by me in connection with arrangements at the canteen there, and I drew the attention of the County School Medical Officer to them. I also made certain recommendations in regard to the canteen which provided the meal.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	6	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	8	15	1	—
TOTAL	86	21	2	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

During the year the survey of sub-standard houses in the District, as necessitated by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, revealed that, of the 1,664 permanent houses inspected, 250 were estimated as unfit. It was proposed to deal with 150 of these houses during the next five years.

During the year 1955, the following houses were :—

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

(a) Commenced only :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	32	2 and 3-bedroom, non-parlour (20), 1-bedroom flats (12)	81

(b) Completed :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	38	2 and 3-bedroom, non-parlour	74

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.55 was as follows:—

(a) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.55 :

Site	Number of houses	Type
Markyate:		
Buckwood Road	45	Brick, 3-bedroom parlour and non-parlour
Buckwood Road	11	Arcon, 2-bedroom, Temporary
Cowper Road	61	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats
Parkfield	22	Brick, 2 and 3-bedroom, non-parlour
Kings Langley:		
Rucklers Lane	36	Uni-Seco, 2-bedroom, temporary (24)
Barnes Estate	45	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour (12)
Bury Estate	30	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, and 2-bedroom
Coniston Road	6	Unity, 2-bedroom bungalows
Wesley Estate	42	Brick, 2-bedroom, non-parlour
		Brick, 3-bedroom, non-parlour; 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Flamstead	53	Brick, 2 and 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour; Airey & Timber, 3-bedroom, parlour (10)
Chipperfield	36	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour; 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats
Bovingdon:		
Hyde Meadows	118	Brick, Airey & Unity; 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Old Dean	24	2-bedroom flats
Bovingdon	30	3-bedroom, non-parlour
Gaddesden Row:		
Jockey End	12	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Great Gaddesden	6	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Flaunden	6	3-bedroom, non-parlour

(b) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) commenced, but not completed at 31.12.55 :

Site	No. of Houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Bovingdon	12	1-bedroom flats	12	—
Markyate	20	2 and 3-bedroom, non-parlour	20	8

(c) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected since 1.1.53, i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.55 :

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Kings, Langley:		
Edmund Estate	30	2-bedroom flats; 1-bedroom bungalows and 3-bedroom houses
Chipperfield	10	3-bedroom houses
Great Gaddesden	6	2 and 3-bedroom houses
Gaddesden Row	6	2 and 3-bedroom houses
Markyate	14	2 and 3-bedroom houses

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Number of houses requisitioned at the end of 1955 ...	...	14
Number of hutments requisitioned at the end of 1955 ...	...	19
Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1955		173

Caravans

At the end of the year there were 29 sites which included a total of 62 caravans. The caravan site at Pepperstock continues to give concern—conditions generally are still not satisfactory. One site owner in that area was prosecuted by the Council for failing to keep the conditions of the Licence.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Drainage and Sewerage

Kings Langley is drained to the Colne Valley Sewerage Scheme. Drainage from the new Council Estate at Bovington is received by the Airport Sewage Works, but permission by the Central Authority for enlargement of the works to serve the main part of Bovington village is deferred until 1957, although the scheme is already approved in principle.

Markyate has a small sewage disposal plant consisting of septic tanks, filter beds and a humus tank. Both because of development in the parish and the leaking conditions of the sewer, the works tend to become overloaded.

Flamstead is served by two systems of land treatment for slop water only. Most of the slop water from the centre of the village runs down street gulleys into one or other of these systems. Owing to the improved water supply at Flamstead an improvement of the land treatment available has been made.

At Great Gaddesden an improved drainage scheme under way should relieve the present pollution risks to the river and water-cress beds.

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Senior Sanitary Inspector states : —

“The Council own three vehicles, one large self-packing vehicle and two smaller ten cubic yard side loaders, one of which is used as a stand-by. During the year, increased concern was felt for the ability to keep pace with the rapidly growing volume of refuse being produced, particularly in the Southern Parishes.

During the year, a new refuse disposal tip was commenced adjoining the Council's depot at Nash Mills Lane, Kings Langley. The disposal was carried out using a Bristol Angledozer.

I think that the particular failure of insecticides in our tips is due to the fact that the interval between successive refuse collection visits is never less than twelve days. This enables flies to breed in the dustbins, and when the rubbish is dumped on the tip there is a swarm of flies ready to fly off.

The Council built a new depot at Nash Mills Lane, and the whole of the fleet of vehicles and maintenance depot is now well housed.”

Night Soil Collection

Weekly collection at night of pail closets is made by the Authority's cesspool machine at Bovington, Flaunden, Chipperfield and Great Gaddesden. Kings Langley and Markyate, being sewered and having very few pail closets, are dealt with privately. Disposal is into the sewers.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council purchased an additional larger machine during the year. There are approximately 1,200 cesspools in the district. The Council undertake the work on a payment basis. Only about one quarter of the cesspools in the district have attention during any one year, and many go for years without emptying. Such a state of affairs can lead to considerable trouble.

Some attempt was made during the year to give advice to occupiers on drainage disposal of houses in rural areas, and a leaflet was drawn up for that purpose.

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

WATER SUPPLIES

Water Samples taken during 1955

Public	...	...	...	11	(1 unsatisfactory)
Private	...	...	...	14	(5 unsatisfactory)

The one unsatisfactory public supply sample was from a source now discontinued.

The work of the comprehensive scheme of water supply for the northern parishes should have been completed during the year, but was delayed by contracting difficulties. Towards the end of the year, arrangements were made to complete the work and most connections have now been made. It is impossible to derive full benefits from the scheme because of the lack of drainage.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector states :—

“Utilisation of a new water works constructed by the Luton Water Company at Friars Wash has been watched with interest. There appears to have been some fall in private well levels near the works. Most of the water pumped comes from quite shallow depths. It seems doubtful if the River Ver will ever flow again. The water course of this once pleasant stream in Markyate is now in a sorry condition, as it is now little better than an open surface water sewer.”

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains are shown in the following table :—

Parish	Population (estimated)	(a) Direct to Houses		(b) By means of Standpipes	
		Houses	Pop'n	Houses	Pop'n
Bovingdon	2,800	826	2,726	20	66
Flaunden	180	26	78	23	96
Kings Langley	4,200	1,318	4,160	12	40
Chipperfield	1,550	425	1,350	55	92
Flamstead	1,300	Because of the new water schemes these figures are not available.			
Great Gaddesden	1,000				
Markyate	2,100	600	1,900	25	82
Total ...	13,130	—	—	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives details of Notifiable Diseases during the year 1955:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	11	Nil	Nil
Measles	139	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	1	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	Nil
Infectious Hepatitis	3	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis:			
Respiratory	5	—	—
Other	Nil	—	—

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Tuberculosis—Respiratory
Under 1 year	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
1—2 years	—	1	9	—	—	—	—
2—3 „	—	2	19	—	1	—	—
3—4 „	—	1	16	—	—	—	1
4—5 „	2	1	13	—	—	—	—
5—10 „	6	2	72	—	—	—	—
10—15 „	2	2	7	—	—	1	—
15—20 „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
20—35 „	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
35—45 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65 „	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
65 years and upwards ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	12	11	139	1	1	3	5

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

STATISTICS

The Urban District of Berkhamsted comprises an area of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,982 acres
Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population) 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,660
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,663
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£101,667
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£400

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>		
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	178	95	83	} BIRTH - RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population .	16.0
	{ Illegitimate	9	4	5		
STILLBIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
DEATHS	...	124	67	57	DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population .	10.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil
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Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	10.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	5.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	111.1

Actual number of deaths under one year:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	—	2

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Principal Causes of Death

Of the 124 deaths, 63 were attributable to Heart or Circulatory Diseases. There were no deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 16 from other respiratory diseases (excluding Cancer). Twenty-three deaths occurred from Cancer. There were no deaths from Poliomyelitis or Influenza. Three were due to motor vehicle accidents.

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year of Age :

Of the 2 infant deaths, one occurred under the age of 4 weeks and was due to prematurity. The other death was attributable to intestinal obstruction.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK
FOR THE YEAR 1955

Visits and Inspections made

COMPLAINTS :

Complaints received	322
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

GENERAL :

Dwelling-houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	1,090
Council properties inspected	...	...	471
Requisitioned premises	...	...	21
Infectious diseases	...	...	51
Housing enquiries—cases of overcrowding			24
Factories	...	...	105
Water supply	...	...	12
Drainage inspections	...	...	56
Cinemas	...	...	5
Common lodging houses	...	...	8
Revisits to premises under Notice		...	183
Swimming pools	...	...	10
Interviews	...	...	161
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	584
Sewage farm and tips	...	...	15
Pet shops	...	...	2
Hostels	...	...	20
Rodent control	...	...	2,219

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

MEAT AND FOODS:

Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses	...	...	...	58
Provision stores	...	...	...	95
Meat shops ...	...	...	...	62
Café premises	...	...	...	51
Market inspections	...	...	...	40
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	4
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	35
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	151

SAMPLING:

Water—bacteriological	...	...	...	24
Ice cream—bacteriological	...	...	...	6
Other specimens—bacteriological	...	...	...	17

Notices Served and Complied With

		Outstanding 31.12.54	Served 1955	Completed 1955	Outstanding 31.12.55
Formal	...	1	36	30	4
Informal	...	20	130	128	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	21	166	158	11
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS:

Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	49
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	38
W.C. fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Door and window fittings	...	...	...	...	1
Sink fittings	...	...	...	...	2
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	6
Overflowing cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	4
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	157
Moles	...	...	...	...	2
Wasps	...	...	...	...	12

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F B E R K H A M S T E D

Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircase	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and passages paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Premises cleansed and limewashed	12
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Houses disinfected after disease	...	...	...	4
Houses treated for vermin and household pests	...	...	...	16
Loads of bedding steam-treated	...	...	...	9

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One premises is registered under the above Act. Very little flock is used or stored and no sample was taken.

Common Lodging Houses

There are two common lodging houses registered with the Local Authority. Both these premises have been on the register for many years and are reasonably maintained and well kept.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One shop only is licensed under the Act. Close liaison is maintained with the local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector in ensuring the conditions of the Act are observed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Sanitary Inspector states:—

Milk Production and Distribution

“ The following licences were issued during the year:			
Dealer’s licence for sale of Pasteurised milk	...	...	2
Dealer’s licence for sale of Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	2
Dealer’s licence for sale of Sterilised milk	...	...	1
Number of dairy premises in the district	...	...	2

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F B E R K H A M S T E D

There are no bottling or pasteurising depots within the area and generally the dairy premises, which are well kept, are merely distribution depots for bottled milk which is brought in from other areas. There are only two dairy herds producing milk within the District and in both cases the producer is licensed under the Designated Milk Regulations.”

Ice Cream

“Four further registrations were made during the year—in each case for retail sale only. There are now a total of 14 such premises. The ice cream sold is pre-packed and exclusive to national proprietary brands.

One premises only is registered for manufacture and sale and although small the factory with its modern equipment conforms to the highest standards of hygiene and efficiency.

Six samples of ice cream were submitted for provisional grading during the year and the results were satisfactory.

In respect of registered premises, there has been no contravention of the Food Act or the Ice Cream Regulations.”

Meat and Food Inspection

“The two slaughterhouses licensed by the Council have continued in use. The extent of usage is as reported for 1954.

Both slaughterhouses continue to be well maintained and no nuisance has arisen in connection with their use. The conditions of the Meat Regulations regarding notification of slaughter are observed and all carcasses are subjected to post-mortem examination. Meat traders in the town take full advantage of the wholesale markets in other areas both for home killed and imported meats.

The experience of seventeen months since the end of meat rationing and decentralization suggests that the existing facilities in the town for the killing of animals for butcher's meat, are sufficient.

Regular inspection is made of meat traders' premises which continue to be maintained in satisfactory manner. It is interesting to comment on the increased number of refrigerated counters now in use, which augurs well for the future.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Condemned meat and offal continues to be disposed of by incineration; small amounts in the urban area, large amounts in the destructor of a neighbouring Authority."

The following table shows the extent of tuberculosis and other disease found on post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the District during 1955:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses *
Number killed (if known)	248	11	87	534	367	—
Number inspected	248	11	87	534	367	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCU- LOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	2	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.05	18.1	—	—	.50	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number insep- ted affected with tuberculosis	.403	—	—	—	—	—
CYSTICERCOSIS*:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Records not available.

Meat and Offal Condemned

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	270 lbs.
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	944 lbs.
Total						1,214 lbs.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Foodstuffs Found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

Tins, jars and packets	...	...	...	778
Eggs	...	...	...	63
Beef	...	...	...	370 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	178 lbs.
Miscellaneous foods	...	...	...	48 lbs. 2 oz.

Food Preparing Premises

“The following is a statement of food preparing premises in the area which are subject to control under the Food and Drugs Act:—

Licensed Hotel restaurants, kitchens	...	...	3
Snack bars and tea rooms	...	...	6
Cafés	...	...	5
Fried fish shops	...	...	5
Meat shops	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	5
Provision stores	...	...	19
School meals service kitchens	...	...	2
Works canteen kitchens	...	...	4

Including premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, 34 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (which provides for the registration of premises used for, or in connection with, the manufacture and sale of ice cream, sausages and certain preserved foods).

All premises are regularly inspected and in the main conform to a fairly high standard. The occupiers give a willing co-operation and any infringement is dealt with informally and is readily remedied. The Council have adopted byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.”

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the district during the year.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	8	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	93	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	7	7	—	—
TOTAL	72	105	15	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	12	12	—	1	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
Unsuitable	1	—	—	1	—
Other offences	2	2	—	2	—
TOTAL	15	14	—	4	—

OUTWORK:

 Making, etc., of wearing apparel 3

HOUSING

During the year, the Survey of sub-standard dwellings in the District, as necessitated by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was completed.

Of the 3,597 permanent houses inspected, it was estimated that 251 were unfit. It was proposed to deal with 15 individual houses and 30 as houses in clearance areas, making a total of 45 houses, during the next five years. On a later Ministry request, this action is however being accelerated.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. Hulse, Engineer and Surveyor to Berkhamsted Urban District Council, for the following summary of the position in regard to the provision of Council houses during 1955:—

The general trend towards reduction in the rate of municipal houses and an increase in private enterprise has been still more noticeable, and it will be observed from the return of the number of houses completed during 1955 that private enterprise has completed more houses than the local authority.

The Council completed the construction of houses on their Durrants Estate by the building of twenty-two two-bedroomed dwellings, and a commencement was made on the final phase of the development by the construction of forty-four single persons' flats.

The acquisition of further land for municipal development has been faced with many difficulties, but ultimately the Council was successful in obtaining planning permission for the development of approximately 18 acres of land situated between Berkhamsted and Northchurch. The purchase of this land was completed during the year and layout plans were submitted to the County Council for planning approval. The estate will be known as the Westfield Estate, and one of the principal features will be a road running parallel to the trunk road A.41 which, when constructed, will provide an alternative direct route from the centre of Berkhamsted to Northchurch. It is anticipated that approximately 172 dwellings will ultimately be erected on this site, and it is probable that 75% will be used for re-housing persons from sub-standard dwellings during the next five years.

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F B E R K H A M S T E D

Subject to planning permission being obtained early in 1956, it is anticipated that the construction of roads, sewers and other services will be proceeded with during the coming year.

The waiting list for applicants was revised again and a live figure of 432 was obtained."

During the year 1955, the following houses were:—

(a) Commenced only :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	44	1-bedroom single person flats	60

(b) Completed :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	22	2-bedroom, non-parlour	47

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.55 was as follows:—

(a) Particulars of Schemes completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.55 :

Site	Number of Houses	Type
Highfield House Estate ...	30	Prefabricated bungalows
Swing Gate Lane Estate .	20	Brick, 3-bedroom, non-parlour
Victoria Road	10	Unity, 3-bedroom, parlour

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

(b) **Particulars of Schemes commenced since 1.1.45, but not completed at 31.12.55 :**

Site	No. of Houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Durrants Farm Estate	430	4-bedroom; 3-bedroom; 2-bedroom; Old Persons' Bungalows; single persons' flats	430	386

(c) **Particulars of Other Schemes Projected—i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.55 :**

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Westfield Estate	173	Various

Number of houses requisitioned by the Authority at 31.12.55 1

Number of applicants for Council houses at end of 1955 ... 432

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Sewage Disposal Works

The Engineer and Surveyor supplies the following account of the progress of the new sewage works:—

“ The Council were successful in obtaining the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the scheme for the new sewage disposal works.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

The tender of Messrs. Howard Farrow Ltd., of £130,280 12s. 2d. was accepted and work commenced on the site in August, 1955. By the end of the year an appreciable amount of work had been carried out by the Contractors, principally in connection with excavation and concreting.

The new works have been designed for a dry weather flow of domestic sewage of 450,000 gallons per day, plus an estimated infiltration of sub-soil water of 1,000,000 gallons per day, giving a total average rate of flow of 1,450,000 gallons per day through the works for an ultimate population of 18,000.

It is expected that the whole of the works will be completed in about a year or fifteen months' time."

WATER SUPPLIES

The quality of the supply continues to maintain a high level of purity and no complaint has been received regarding quantity. The Urban District Council submits monthly samples for bacteriological examination; these are taken before and after treatment by chlorination. No action has been necessary for plumbo-solvent contamination.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains is shown in the following table:—

Population (estimated)	(a) Supply direct to Houses		(b) Supply by means of Standpipes	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
11,560	3,628	11,548	7	12

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives details of Notifiable Diseases during the year 1955:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4	2	Nil
Whooping Cough	37	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1	Nil
(Non-paralytic)	1	1	Nil
Measles	363	12	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	Nil
Infectious Hepatitis	3	1	Nil
Tuberculosis:			
Respiratory	6	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—
Other	3	—	—

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis (P)	Acute Polio- myelitis (NP)	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Infectious Hepatitis	Tuberculosis— Respiratory	Tuberculosis— Other
Under 1 year	—	2	—	—	12	—	1	—	—	1
1— 2 years	—	1	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—
2— 3 „	—	4	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—
3— 4 „	1	2	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—
4— 5 „	1	10	1	—	55	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 „	2	16	—	—	202	—	—	1	—	—
10—15 „	—	1	—	1	5	—	—	1	1	1
15—20 „	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
35—45 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—65 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Age unknown	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified .	4	37	1	1	363	1	1	3	6	3

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

STATISTICS

The Rural District of Berkhamsted is composed of the parishes of Northchurch, Aldbury, Wigginton, Tring Rural, Nettleden (with Potten End), Little Gaddesden and Puttenham, which comprises an area of ... 17,572 acres

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population) 1955 ... 5,970

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to rate books ... 1,795

Rateable Value ... £35,885

Sum represented by a penny rate ... £142

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	69	35	34	} BIRTH - RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population . 12.9
	{ Illegitimate	8	5	3	

STILLBIRTHS ... Nil

DEATHS	...	53	31	22	DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population . 8.9
--------	-----	----	----	----	--

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... Nil

Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age :

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Principal Causes of Death

Of the 53 deaths, 29 were attributable to Heart or Circulatory Disease. There were no deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis but 7 from other respiratory diseases (excluding Cancer). Eleven deaths occurred from Cancer. There were no deaths from Poliomyelitis or Influenza or from Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year of Age :

There were no deaths of infants under the age of one year.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1955

Visits and Inspections made

GENERAL :

Houses—Public Health Acts	...	...	103
Housing Acts	...	...	81
Overcrowding	...	...	8
Infectious diseases	...	...	7
Complaints investigated	...	...	41
Drainage inspections and tests	...	...	131
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	13
Factories, workshops and workplaces	...	...	6
Schools	...	...	4
Petroleum stores	...	...	9
Work in progress	...	...	435
Verminous premises	...	...	2
Cesspools	...	...	98
Canal boats	...	...	3
Licensed premises	...	...	8
Rivers and streams	...	...	7
Premises disinfected	...	...	2

MEAT AND FOODS :

Bakehouses	...	...	3
Cowsheds and dairies	...	...	2
Food stores	...	...	21

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Notices Served and Complied With

		Outstanding 31.12.54	Served 1955	Completed 1955	Outstanding 31.12.55
Formal ...	...	5	10	12	3
Informal ...	...	3	19	16	6
		<hr/> 8	<hr/> 29	<hr/> 28	<hr/> 9

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Drainage and cesspools ...	...	...	...	...	...	296
Water closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Disinfestation

No disinfestation was carried out during the year.

Swimming Baths

There is one privately owned swimming bath for the public. The bath was extensively used during the year. Chlorination of the water is carried out by a Wallace & Tiernan plant.

Byelaws under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, with respect to swimming baths have been in force in the District since 1953.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Production and Distribution

The number of persons on the Register at the end of the year was as follows:—

Cowkeeper/Retailers ...	...	...	...	...	14
Retailers (non-resident in the district) ...	...	...	...	...	10

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Meat and Food Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the District, one at Long Marston and one at Hudnall, Little Gaddesden. The latter slaughterhouse, although licensed in July, 1954, has not yet been put into use.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses *
Number killed (if known)	133	28	51	193	298	—
Number inspected	93	18	32	122	176	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	10	—	13	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.1	18	—	10.6	6.8	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	4	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis...	10.7	22.2	—	—	3.5	—
CYSTICERCOSIS*:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	1	3	2	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Records not available.

Four condemnations of unsound food, other than butcher's meat, were made during the year.

The Ministry of Food continue to use their Buffer Depot, near Tring Station. Inspection of the food at this depot is carried out by Ministry Inspectors and condemnation certificates are issued by the Rural District Sanitary Inspector.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Food Premises

The number of food premises in operation during the year was 20. A satisfactory condition of cleanliness and food handling has been maintained.

Ice Cream was retailed from 16 premises within the Rural District. No premises are registered in the District for the manufacture of ice cream.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	7	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	8	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found Nil
3. OUTWORK:

Making wearing apparel 1

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

HOUSING

The Survey of sub-standard dwellings in the District, necessitated by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, revealed that of the 1,099 permanent houses inspected, 37 should be classified as unfit. No definite proceeding for dealing with these was determined on. The 37 houses represent individual houses which are unfit and, possibly a small clearance area.

During the year 1955, the following houses were:—

(a) Commenced only :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	Nil	—	32

(b) Completed :

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	10	2-bedroom houses, 2-bedroom bungalows and 3-bedroom houses	24

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.55 was as follows:—

(a) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.55 :

Site	Number of Houses	Type
Wigginton ·		
Wick Road	14	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick
Fieldway	8	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick
Chesham Road	6	2 and 3-bedroom, non-parlour, Brick
Highfield Road	14	2 and 3-bedroom, Brick

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Site	Number of Houses	Site
Aldbury:		
Malting Lane	6	3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, Brick
Stoneycroft	12	3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, Brick
Berryfield	8	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick
Wilstone:		
New Road	4	3-bedroom, non-parlour, Brick
Main Street	2	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick bungalows
Little Gaddesden:		
Cromer Close	30	2-bedroom, non-parlour; 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Long Marston:		
Tring Road	8	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick
Northchurch	2	3-bedroom, parlour, Brick
Potten End:		
Vicarage Road	10	} 2-bedroom, non-parlour; 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, Brick Bungalows, Brick
Hedgeside	28	
Hedgeside	8	

(b) Particulars of Schemes commenced but not completed at 31.12.55 :

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Long Marston: Bromley	24	3-bedroom, parlour; 4-bedroom, parlour; and 2-bedroom bungalows	16	6

Number of houses requisitioned by the Rural District Council at the end of the year Nil

Number of applicants for Council Houses at end of 1955 (approx.) 100

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Drainage and Sewerage

ALDBURY PARISH: A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal has been under consideration for the parish of Aldbury but little progress has been made. Existing W.C.'s, etc., are drained to cesspools which are emptied by the Council's cesspool emptying machines as required.

LITTLE GADDESSEN PARISH: Sanitary conditions in this parish remain the same. Cesspools and properly constructed septic tanks are in general use.

NETTLEDEN (with POTTEN END) PARISH: The scheme of sewerage for the Potten End portion of this parish was nearing completion at the end of the year, and at the time of writing this report consultations are taking place with the Berkhamsted Urban District Council into whose disposal works it is proposed to discharge.

NORTHCHURCH PARISH: In my previous reports I referred to the unsatisfactory sanitary conditions existing at the Home Farm Estate portion of Northchurch parish. Some alterations and improvements have been carried out to septic tank and cesspool arrangements but the conditions remain basically the same.

WIGGINGTON PARISH: No further progress has been made in connection with a scheme for Wiggington.

TRING RURAL PARISH: The villages of Long Marston and Wilstone comprising the parish of Tring Rural have main sewers which discharge on to areas prepared for land irrigation. Some difficulty has been experienced with the disposal fields due in the main to unsatisfactory management. Alterations in the management have now been made and the field brought to a satisfactory standard.

Cesspool Emptying

The Sanitary Inspector states:—

“The Council undertake the emptying of private cesspools and also those on their own housing estates. During the year com-

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

mencing 1st October, the number of free visits to private cesspools was increased from two to four per year.

A second cesspool emptying machine was put into operation on the 10th January, and during the whole of the year both machines have been fully occupied."

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Sanitary Inspector states:—

"The collection of household refuse by direct labour has continued on a satisfactory basis. Occasional requests are made by individuals for a weekly collection in lieu of the present fortnightly programme but such an operation would entail duplication of the present vehicle and labour force.

Disposal of household refuse is carried out by tipping in the disused brick kiln at Outwood Kiln in the parish of Aldbury."

Caravans

The caravan site at "The Limit", Northchurch, is the only one in the District licensed under the Public Health Acts and the Town and Country Planning Act. The site is well maintained and continues to assist would-be householders in solving their accommodation difficulties.

WATER SUPPLIES

The parishes of Tring Rural, Puttenham, Wigginton and Aldbury receive constant water supplies from the Bucks Water Board. Little Gaddesden, Potten End, Northchurch (in part) and the hamlet of St. Margarets are supplied by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company. A brick-lined well, 317 feet in depth, forms part of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's scheme for the supply at Little Gaddesden. At Potten End the Company have a small water tower fed from the Berkhamsted mains for the supply to that village.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

During the year the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company carried out an extension of their mains from Frithsden Copse along and beneath the public footpath across the copse and terminating at the public road at a point near the Bede houses, Frithsden. The extension was designed to serve agricultural land and as a result of its completion, the Water Company were approached on the question of further extending the supply to the villages of Frithsden and Nettleden; this proposal has been placed before the Local Authority for consideration.

There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvency in the water, and no action was necessary in respect of contamination.

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains are shown in the following table:—

Parish	Population (approx.)	(a) Direct to Houses		(b) By means of Standpipes	
		Houses	Pop'n	Houses	Pop'n
Aldbury	858	262	813	13	45
Little Gaddesden	1,346	298	1,346	—	—
Nettleden (with Potten End)	1,028	287	1,020	3	8
Northchurch	894	247	894	—	—
Puttenham	100	35	100	—	—
Tring Rural	730	206	693	12	37
Wigginton	980	303	980	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives details of Notifiable Diseases during the year 1955:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	2	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	2	2	Nil
Measles	101	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	2	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis:			
Respiratory	2	—	—
Other	1	—	—

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis (NP)	Measles	Acute Pneumonia	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	Tuberculosis—Other
Under 1 year	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
1— 2 years	—	1	—	5	—	—	—
2— 3 "	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
3— 4 "	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
4— 5 "	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
5—10 "	1	1	—	54	1	1	—
10—15 "	—	—	2	10	—	—	—
15—20 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 "	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
35—45 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total Cases Notified	1	2	2	101	2	2	1

**TABLE SHOWING BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES
AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES**

Area	Birth- Rate per 1,000 Population	Death- Rate per 1,000 Population	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.0	11.7	24.9
Borough of Hemel Hempstead ...	20.9	7.9	15.7
Rural District of Hemel Hempstead ...	15.9	8.3	15.0
Urban District of Berkhamsted ...	16.0	10.6	10.7
Rural District of Berkhamsted ...	12.9	8.9	Nil
Urban District of Tring	11.5	14.1	65.6
SOUTH HERTS (No. 1) COMB- INED SANITARY DISTRICT ...	17.9	9.0	16.3

